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BEEBLET

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BBC / ACORN

COMPUTER USER GROUP NZ (inc)

EDITORIAL

It's continuing to be a long hot summer, and thoughts of *Beeblet* were apparently well away from your minds - and for that I can't blame you.

Never-the-less, sufficient has been received to run to 36 pages this time, and with this issue containing the reports leading to the National User Group Annual General Meeting on 11 March, it is hoped you will find something of interest.

I would like to bring two items to your attention. Firstly is the result of publishing an enquiry last month from Mr Bill Miller of Tauranga regarding weaving programs. Several pages are tken up this month by a weaving design program, and it is hoped that this will be of interest to some other readers. I also hope that this will indicate that the current Editorial Committee has a commitment to support what might appear to some as minority interests. We can assure all, that this article/program has not displaced any more general interest topic, and *Beeblet* would have been extended if necessary to accommodate the program.

Moral: Don't think that no one else is interested in special projects you have completed for yourself. Expressing yourself via *Beeblet* may assist you by enabling additional contacts to be made. Express your interests; others may be able to assist you.

Secondly, page 34 contains the Local User Group news, etc., received up to publication closure date plus seven days.

Local User Group contacts with material for the March issue should make sure it is posted to reach PO Box 9592, Wellington, by 28 February in time for the regular weekend box clearance. With most of the assembly of the March issue being done during the first week in March (prior to the AGM), it would be possible to accept contributions via tolls at 300 bauds in the late evening ((04)326488: ringback on request), or STARNET via the Secretary, John Andrew, up to 4 March. Either method would be at sender's risk as the use of Modems for obtaining *Beeblet* contributions is in its infancy.

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The views of reviewers, contributors and/or Editori
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BUILD YOUR OWN DATABASE MANAGER

BEEBUG FILER: Part 4
MAIL-MERGE

We started the BEEBUG Filer series in the September issue of *Beeblet*, with the assistance of Neville Hudson, per courtesy of BEEBUG . Please note that this is a reprint of BEEBUG's program, which was written by Mike Williams. Although Beebugsoft have kindly agreed to allow us to republish their very successful series on the BEEBUG Filer, copyright remains with Beebugsoft.

We continue...

BEEBUG Filer, the database program that was described in the September to Nov/Dec issues of *Beeblet* can be readily extended or modified to provide additional features. Such extras often cost little in code, as frequent use can be made of existing procedures and functions, a big advantage of the modular approach adopted.

This month we will see just how easy it is to add a mail-merge facility for use with View or Wordwise. Indeed, any word processor or editor that can produce ASCII files will do.

To explain what is meant by 'mail-merge' consider the situation where we want to send the same letter to a number of different people whose names and addresses are all held in a datafile. We can use a word processor to create the letter and mark in some way where the name and address of the recipient are to appear. A mail-merge option will then merge the text file and the datafile together to produce as many copies of the letter as required, each individualised with information from the datafile.

This could be simply the name of the addressee, but could also include other data as well. In this particular version up to nine different fields may be referenced at any one time, and Filer's other features may be used to select which particular records from a given database will be used in any mail-merge operation.

To add the mail-merge facility to Filer, load your existing version of Filer into memory and then add the lines listed at the end of this article (for Basic I change OPENUP to OPENIN). This produces the updated version of Filer, but it is advisable to save this separately to your original version until you have checked that your new version works correctly.

To use this new facility, create some text with your word processor, marking each point where data is to be inserted from the datafile by @1, @2 etc. Once this has been done, create a spooled version of the text (option 8 in Wordwise, remove rulers and other commands in View). Run Filer and enter the commands:

```
OPEN <datafile>
MERGE <textfile>
```

For each record in the datafile, the text will be printed out with @1 replaced by the contents of the first data field, @2 by the second and so on. If you want to change the marker character (@), you can do so with the command:

```
MARK <character>
```

specifying the character of your choice. Up to nine (@1 to @9) different fields can be inserted into any one piece of text, and each data field can occur as many times as required. The SELECT option can also be used as described in previous Filer articles (Nov/Dec issue) in order to merge only selected records with a given text file.

. . . .

EXAMPLE: Text File

PO Box 9592
WELLINGTON
23 February 1987

@1,
@2,
@3,
@4.

Dear @5,

This letter is designed to illustrate the latest edition of the BEEBUG Filer database program. This is a fantastic Mail-Merge facility that can be used with View, Wordwise or any other wordprocessor that can produce ASCII files.

Just look at this letter to see how good it is and remember that some 25,000 other people will have received a similar, personalised letter in addition to yourself.

Your sincerely,
Mike Williams.

PRACTICAL POINTS

If you avoid all unnecessary spaces when adding this amendment to Filer, and run Filer with PAGE set to &1400 (type: PAGE=&1400 <Return>), you should encounter no memory problems. Note that as the Filer mail-merge facility is implemented quite simply it may upset any previous formatting of the text file. This particularly affects right justification of text. This is virtually unavoidable unless arrangements were made to pass the mail-merged text back through the word processor, or comparable formatting routines were to be included within Filer itself.

When used with View files, Filer has no way of knowing where tab stops were set. All tab characters are therefore ignored and should be replaced in the original text by spaces.

SPOOLING DATA FROM FILER

It may be worth pointing out that Filer already has the ability to transfer data into a file suitable for reading in by a word processor. This can be useful when compiling

. . . .

EXAMPLE: Merged File

PO Box 9592
WELLINGTON
23 February 1987

F. Bloggs,
212 Riversdale Ave,
Island Bay,
WELLINGTON.

Dear Fred,

This letter is designed to illustrate the latest edition of the BEEBUG Filer database program. This is a fantastic Mail-Merge facility that can be used with View, Wordwise or any other wordprocessor that can produce ASCII files.

Just look at this letter to see how good it is and remember that some 25,000 other people will have received a similar, personalised letter in addition to yourself.

Your sincerely,
Mike Williams.

reports in which it is desirable to include output from a datafile. To do this will require the use of a format file and essentially follows the same pattern as when outputting to a printer or to the screen. To output data to a file called DATA from a datafile called RECORDS, proceed as follows:

```
OPEN RECORDS
*FX5,0
FORMAT FORM1
*SPOOL DATA
PRINT
*SPOOL
```

FORM1 is any suitable format file. The resulting file DATA can then be read in using View or Wordwise.

……

LISTING:

Please note that the listing below has been laid out for easy reading. In typing your Merge amendments in, leave out any redundant spaces (eg., the one immediately following the line number) to keep the file length to a minimum.

```
 1050 delete%=0:search$="-1":mark=64
 1100 DATA 15
 1170 DATA UPDATE,SORT,SELECT,EXTEND,MERGE,MARK
 1770 IF C=15 THEN PROCdisplay(pm$,2)
 1780 IF C=16 THEN mark=ASC(pm$)
 4820 LOCAL G,I,start,end,n:IF flag<2 THEN n=VAL(p$) ELSE
      F1=OPENUP(p$):IF F1=0 THEN PRINT"No such
      text":ENDPROC
 4890 IF flag=1 AND NOT format% THEN PRINT"No
      format":ENDPROC
 4970 IF flag=0 THEN PROCdisplay1(I) ELSE IF flag=1 THEN
      PROCprint1(I) ELSE IF flag=2 THEN PROCmerge1(I)
 4980 IF I<end AND flag>2 THEN G=GET
 5010 IF flag=2 CLOSE#F1
10800 DEF PROCmerge1(n)
10820 LOCAL char:PTR#F1=0
10840 REPEAT:char=BGET#F1
10860 IF char=mark THEN n=BGET#F1-48:PRINT
      FNstrip(record$(n,0),".");ELSE IF char>31 AND
      char<128 VDUchar
10870 IF char=13 THEN VDU13,10 ELSE IF char=26 VDU32
10880 UNTIL EOF#F1:VDU12:ENDPROC
10900 :
```

TOURNAMENT MANAGER
(Advertisement)

Those of you have already seen the *Acorn User* of January 1987 will have noted that the BBC/Acorn User Group of New Zealand, Inc. was mentioned. As a result Susan LLoyd of ABICO has written to the Group with details of a new product which is also the subject of a short news item in the same issue.

She has supplied a press release, and noting that most New Zealanders tend to get themselves involved at some time in running sporting events if they are not actually participating, a brief resume will given below.

Some of the features of *Tournament Manager* are:

Full colour scoreboard just as in TV coverage of Snooker.
Automatic movement of winners through each round.
Full display of tournament results and status, by round, on demand with optional printing.
Play ties in any order. Any number of games per tie.
Up to 128 players or teams; up to 7 rounds; automatic handling of byes.
Instant saving of entire tournament to disc after every five games, if required, or on demand, with ability to restore the five most recent saves - in case of power failure.
Easily customised for Event's title, description, location, date, etc. and names for all entrants.
Prints smart certificates automatically at the end of the tournament for all the top places (Epson codes).
Tested on BBC Model B, with OS 1.20 and DFS 0.90.
Written in Basic, compatible with the new Master series.
Already supplied to a number of Education authorities, schools and colleges.
Supplied on 40-track disc, with comprehensive User Guide.

Price: £11.00 from New Zealand
The address for anyone interested is:

Abico (Z1)
Willow House
Shepreth
Royston
Herts
ENGLAND

or inquire of your local Dealer, who may be happy to assist in getting the program for you.

……

Review

If any member obtains the program, *Beeblet* will be very pleased to publish their review of how the program works in New Zealand conditions.

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED

Tony W. Napier

The following is an account of a recent traumatic experience. It is not anti-chief accountant, who is a most amiable fellow, nor is it anti-computer. It is merely a warning to those innocents who contemplate installing a system in the belief that their spare time will go up in direct proportion to the paper work going down. The reverse is only too easily achieved.

Our Chief Accountant, in his wisdom,
Installed a new computer system.
On line, off line, in between lines,
Marvellous are the things it does.
All departments now have keyboards,
Connected to the new computer.
Computer, looking like a Tardis,
Humming gently to itself.
Humming songs of deep contentment,
Composed of programs, menus, systems,
Songs of love for its creators,
And in its love, producing listings.

Listings, listings, endless listings,
If we say we want one, we will get it.
Large lists, small lists, upside down lists,
Faster than we can digest them.
Heaped up on the desks and cupboards,
Now we've started on the floor,
Can't sit down, the chairs are covered,
Can't even find the bloomin' door.
The office staff - becoming frantic,
Are handing lists out by the score.
You, and you, and you can have some,
Don't run away, here come some more.
"Paper war", - phrase used when jesting,
Has now become a Battle Royal.

In the midst of all this chaos,
Sits the computer, humming gently.
The songs of love for its creators,
Now turning to contempt.
Observing, listening, thinking
to itself - I need no sleep,
You are tired, with eyelids blinking,
As if you're going to weep.
So prop those eyelids up with matches,
Yes, I know your eyes are red.
Grab a sandwich, gulp some coffee,
No, you can't go home to bed.
Run round in circles, ever smaller,

Faster, faster, up the wall.
Nerves all twitchy?, fingers shaky?,
Got wobbly legs?, you'll have to crawl!

Don't you like my many listings?
Shun them? scorn them even, would you?
Don't you dare ignore them or discard them,
I'm doubling output if you do.
Don't try switching off the printer,
There's plenty in my spool file yet.
It's no good trying DELQ, MCLEAR,
FILE LOCK OUT is all you'll get.
Don't try taking out the paper,
My screech will drive you round the twist.
That's a good boy, put some more in,
Now stand aside, here comes a list.

Don't even think of switching me off,
Your back-up tapes aren't what you think.
If you load them in a new computer,
Your systems all go on the blink.
There is vital data missing,
It's hidden in my memory chips,
If you try to find it, I'll corrupt it,
Then print you lists of gibberish.

So now I've got you where I want you,
You can't escape, you feeble lot.
You're stuck with me, you foolish humans,
I've got you by the you-know-what!

Well, we've bought the system, warts and all,
Perhaps to send it back would be no loss.
Besieged by paper, now I wonder,
Just who are the slaves, and who is the boss!

JUST WONDERING...

What are your specific interests?

Have you developed a program to do a special job for youself, your family, your job?

Do you wonder if someone else has the same interests as yourself?

Do you want to know whether you are about to develop a program that may have already done by another member?

Someone else will be interested - so tell *Beeblet* about it.

Turn to page 10 to see what happened as a result of Mr Bill Miller's enquiry published last month.

WEAVING PROGRAM

by Neil Gordon

In response to a request by Bill Miller of Tauranga in the last *Beeblet*, I resurrected and considerably enhanced a program I wrote a couple of years ago.

Before looking at the program, it is worth describing the weaving process. I am not a weaver, so I apologise should my explanation and the terminology be a little astray.

The first step is to thread your loom. Each of the warp threads is passed through a heddle attached to one of, typically, four harnesses. Also, the warp threads can be different colours.

In 'rising shed' weaving, a combination of one or more of the harnesses is lifted, and a shuttle carrying the weft thread is thrown from one side to the other, between the warp threads which have stayed where they are and those which were lifted by their harness. When the harnesses are returned to where they were, the woven material will show the colour of the warp thread if it was lifted, or the weft if it stayed in the same place. (Sinking shed weaving is similar, only the harnesses pull the warp threads down.)

Often there are just a few combinations of harnesses which are raised at the same time. To simplify matters, the combinations can be tied together and connected to a treadle - pressing that will lift the appropriate combination. Weaving patterns will give a 'rising-shed tie-up' showing which combination of harnesses is connected to which treadle, then describe the pattern in terms of the sequence of treadles used for each new weft thread. A 'sinking-shed tie-up' will also be given.

Sometimes the weft thread is much heavier than the warp, and/or is 'beaten' heavily, in which case we barely see the warp - this is called weft-faced. Sometimes the warp is heavier than the weft - this is called warp-faced. We are dealing here with so-called balanced weave, where the thickness of the warp and weft is about the same, and we also assume that the material is beaten so that we have a regular grid of material.

Now on to the program. It reads information from a data file - prompting for the file name at the start - rather than from DATA statements within the program. This is to allow you to construct lots of different files for different weaves. The data file will have to be constructed using a word processing program such as VIEW or WORDWISE - I assume that most if not all of you have a wordprocessor by now.

The file contains information in a format which is very compatible with Basic DATA statements. An example for the HONEYSUCKLE pattern (see Page 235 of Mary Black's book "The Key to Weaving") is:

```
! HONEYSUCKLE PATTERN
! Threading
X4(34)Y4(M(12341212323434))X4(43)
!Warp colours
X150(7)
! Tie-ups
12,23,34,14,24,13,*
! Treadling
X4(56)X4(R(12341122333))X4(56)
! Weft colours
X128(1)
```

Note that anything after a ! on a line is ignored, so these can be used for comments. The first line of real data is the third, which gives the pattern of which harness each of the warp threads is connected to.

I developed a shorthand code to describe the threading, and other information, in order to cut down the length. A brief description is given in the program.

Firstly, a block of information can be repeated by enclosing it in parentheses and preceding it by X and a repeat count. For example, the warp threading information starts with X4(34) which is equivalent to 34343434. Sometimes the pattern requires a repeated sequence where the very last number should only be used on the last of the repeats - in that case, Y followed by a repeat count is used.

Mirror images are also common in weaving. Those are put inside parentheses and preceded by an M, if the complete mirror image contains an odd number of points. For example, M(123) is equivalent to 12321, where the final digit, 3, is not repeated. Mirror images can also have an even number of points by using R rather than M. Thus, R(123) is equivalent to 123321, with the 3 repeated.

This coding allows complicated patterns to be written quite succinctly, as in the example. In the case of the warp threading, the embedded mirror image pattern as written contains 14 digits. Since the expanded mirror image does not repeat the last digit it will contain 27 digits. The 5 repetitions of this pattern will total 4*26+27, or 131 digits, since the last digit only appears on the last repetition. Finally, the two borders, with 8 digits on each side, bring the grand total to 147 warp threads.

The next line of data, X150(7), gives the colours of the warp threads. Colour 7 in MODE 2 corresponds to white. The program works only in MODE 2, since chunky graphics (a maximum of 160 points across and 128 lines high) give the best image of the weave for planning purposes. The number of warp threads is given by the threading information, rather than the colours, so we have defined 150 thread colours here. This won't matter, so long as no more than 160 are defined.

The next information is a series of strings giving the tie-ups. This indicates that treadle one will pull up both harnesses 1 and 2, treadle 2 harnesses 2 and 3, and so on. The end of the tie-up information is indicated by a string consisting of an asterisk.

The treadling information gives the sequence of treadles to be used for each weft thread. Again, it is encoded for brevity. The mirror image has 13 digits as written, and 26 when expanded (R is used, so the last value is repeated). It is repeated 4 times, so, together with the borders of plain weave (8 threads top and bottom), a total of 120 weft threads will be used. Finally, the allowable maximum of 128 weft thread colours - all the same (colour 1 is red in MODE 2) - are defined.

The resulting display is rather attractive, as shown in the screen dump.

The main program is rather short. It dimensions arrays of appropriate size to hold the information, asks for the data file name, opens it, reads and decodes the information, then plots out the woven image. Lines 340 to 420 contain the loop to do the plot.

For each weft thread, line 360 computes a byte with bits set for each harness which is raised for that treadle. Line 380 determines, for each warp thread intersecting the weft, whether the warp or weft colour will show. Lines 390 and 400 then plot that colour (on two adjacent lines for the chunky graphics).

The main decoding procedure is PROCdecode, starting on line 480. Comments within this describe the possible coding. Various PROCs are called into action depending on the contents of the string passed. Note that all but PROCsingle call PROCdecode recursively, allowing nesting to any reasonable depth.

PROCdefine_tie_up sets bits depending on which harnesses are pulled up for a particular treadle. PROCmake_bit is used to convert digits defining to which harness a warp thread is connected into bits at appropriate positions.

Finally, some routines which allow data to read from a file as if it were in Basic DATA statements are given. A virtually identical syntax is followed, except that ' can be used (instead of REM) to insert comments. FNread_string(F%) will read a string from the file with channel number F%, and follows the idiosyncratic definitions of start and end of strings in DATA statements. That is, A$=FNread_string(F%) is equivalent to READ A$. FNread is used to read a number, and PROCrestore to return the file pointer to the beginning of the file (equivalent to RESTORE).

If you type in the program, leave out the comments at your discretion (you can always refer to Beeblet for the listing). Note that the program does not refer to any line numbers. (Ed: Some lines containing : only have been ommitted from the listing.)

If you produce any interesting weaving patterns with this program please send in the data file and/or a screen dump for us to publish.

....

```
   10 REM Weaving Program
   20 REM (c) Neil Gordon - January 1987
   30 :
   40 DIM threading% 159
   50 DIM warp_colour% 159
   60 DIM treadle% 127
   70 DIM weft_colour% 127
   80 DIM tie_up% 25
   90 :
  100 REM Ask for file name with data
  110 :
  120 REPEAT
  130 INPUT  "File name with weaving data: " A$
  140 F%=OPENIN(A$)
  150 UNTIL F%<>0
  160 :
  170 nwarp%=FNdecode(FNread_string(F%),threading%)
      -threading%-1
  180 PROCmake_bit(threading%,nwarp%)
  190 next%=FNdecode(FNread_string(F%),warp_colour%)
  200 :
  210 I%=0
  220 REPEAT
  230 A$=FNread_string(F%)
  240 IF A$<>"*" THEN I%=I%+1:PROCdefine_tie_up
  250 UNTIL A$="*"
  260 :
  270 nweft%=FNdecode(FNread_string(F%),treadle%)-treadle%-1
  280 next%=FNdecode(FNread_string(F%),weft_colour%)
  290 CLOSE #F%
  300 :
```

```
310 MODE 2
320 :
330 VDU 23,1,0;0;0;0;0 : REM turn off cursor
340 FOR J%=0 TO nweft%
350 PLOT 4,-8,J%*8
360 pull_up%=tie_up%?(treadle%?J%)
370 FOR I%=0 TO nwarp%
380 IF pull_up% AND threading%?I% THEN
    GCOL 0,warp_colour%?I% ELSE GCOL 0,weft_colour%?J%
390 PLOT 65,8,4
400 PLOT 65,0,-4
410 NEXT
420 NEXT
430 REM Add dump routine here, if required
460 END
470 :
480 DEF FNdecode(A$,start%)
500 REM Decode description and return next position
510 REM Valid syntax, where digits given are examples, is:
520 REM   123434      - single digits
530 REM   X4(123)     - repeat sequence 4 times (count can
    be 2 or more digits)
540 REM               equivalent to 123123123123
550 REM   Y4(123)     - repeat sequence 4 times, but only
    using last value
560 REM               of sequence for the last time
    (useful when repeating
570 REM               mirror image sequences)
580 REM               equivalent to 121212123
590 REM   M(1243)     - mirror image, equivalent to 1243421
    (note that
600 REM               3 is not repeated
610 REM   R(1243)      - repeated mirror image, equivalent
    to 12433421
620 REM               (note that 3 is repeated)
630 REM All those can be nested as required (see example)
650 LOCAL I%
660 I%=1
670 REPEAT
680 IF MID$(A$,I%,1)="X" THEN PROCrepeat(1):
    ELSE IF MID$(A$,I%,1)="Y" THEN PROCrepeat(0):
    ELSE IF MID$(A$,I%,1)="M" THEN PROCmirror(0):
    ELSE IF MID$(A$,I%,1)="R" THEN PROCmirror(1):
    ELSE PROCsingle
690 I%=I%+1
700 start%=start%+1
710 UNTIL I%>LEN(A$) OR MID$(A$,I%,1)=")"
720 lastI%=I%
730 =start%
740 :
750 DEF PROCsingle
760 ?start% = ASC(MID$(A$,I%,1))-ASC"0"
770 ENDPROC
```

```
 780 :
 790 DEF PROCrepeat(extra%)
 800 REM If extra% is 1, then include last value each time
 810 REM If 0, then include only on the last time
 830 LOCAL nrepeat%,next%,save%,J%,K%,L%,N%
 840 I%=I%+1
 850 K%=INSTR(A$,"(",I%)
 860 nrepeat%=EVAL(MID$(A$,I%,K%-I%))
 870 next%=FNdecode(RIGHT$(A$,LEN(A$)-K%),start%)
 880 save%=?(next%-1)
 890 next%=next%+extra%-1
 900 N%=next%-1-start%
 910 FOR L%=2 TO nrepeat%
 920 FOR J%=0 TO N%
 930 next%?J%=start%?J%
 940 NEXT
 950 start%=next%
 960 next%=next%+N%+1
 970 NEXT
 980 I%=K%+lastI%
 990 start%=start%+N%
1000 IF extra%=0 THEN start%=start%+1 : ?start%=save%
1010 ENDPROC
1020 :
1030 DEF PROCmirror(extra%)
1040 REM Mirror image - repeat last value within brackets
     if extra% is 1
1050 LOCAL next%
1060 I%=I%+1
1070 IF MID$(A$,I%,1)<>"(" THEN PRINT "Expected ( after M
     or R in ";A$ : STOP
1080 next%=FNdecode(RIGHT$(A$,LEN(A$)-I%),start%)
1090 FOR J%=next%-2+extra% TO start% STEP -1
1100 ?(next%+next%-2+extra%-J%)=?J%
1110 NEXT
1120 I%=I%+lastI%
1130 start%=next%+next%-2+extra%-start%
1140 ENDPROC
1150 :
1160 DEF PROCdefine_tie_up
1170 LOCAL J%
1180 tie_up%?I%=0
1190 FOR J%=1 TO LEN(A$)
1200 tie_up%?I%=tie_up%?I% OR 2^(-1+EVAL(MID$(A$,J%,1)))
1210 NEXT
1220 ENDPROC 1230 :
1240 DEF PROCmake_bit(start%,n%)
1250 LOCAL I%
1260 FOR I%=start% TO start%+n%
1270 ?I%=2^(-1+?I%)
1280 NEXT
1290 ENDPROC
```

```
1300 :
1320 REM ************************************
1330 REM Some useful general purpose routines
1340 REM ************************************
1360 DEF FNread_string(F%)
1380 REM Gets next string from input
1400 LOCAL A$,A%,done%,last%
1410 :
1420 REM Read past blanks or line feeds
1430 REM If find a "!" then skip to end of that line
1440 REM Ignore EOF - should get an error anyway
1450 :
1460 REPEAT
1470 REPEAT
1480 A%=BGET#F%
1490 UNTIL A%<>32 AND A%<>13
1500 IF A%=ASC"!" THEN REPEAT : UNTIL (BGET#F%)=13
1510 UNTIL A%<>ASC"!"
1520 :
1530 REM If hit a comma then null answer
1540 :
1550 IF A%=ASC"," THEN =""
1560 :
1570 REM IF a double quote then find closing one
1580 REM else look for closing comma, line feed, or EOF
1590 :
1600 IF A%=34 THEN last%=34 ELSE last%=ASC",":
1610 A$=CHR$A%
1620 REPEAT
1630 A%=BGET#F%
1640 done%=(A%=13) OR (A%=last%) OR EOF#F%
1650 IF NOT done% THEN A$=A$+CHR$A%
1660 UNTIL done%
1670 :
1680 REM If not ended by quote, strip trailing blanks
1700 REM PRINT "<";A$;">"
1710 :
1720 IF last%=34 THEN =A$
1730 IF RIGHT$(A$,1)<>" " THEN =A$
1740 A%=LEN(A$)
1750 REPEAT
1760 A%=A%-1
1770 A$=LEFT$(A$,A%)
1780 UNTIL RIGHT$(A$,1)<>" "
1790 =A$
1800 :
1810 DEF FNread(F%)=EVAL(FNread_string(F%))
1820 :
1830 DEF PROCrestore(F%)
1840 PTR#F%=0
1850 ENDPROC
```

CLASSIFIEDS:

HELP WANTED The Editorial Committee is looking for someone who is familiar with VIEWSHEET. The following questions have been asked by Peter Till of 5C Hunter St., Hawera, and we would like to help:

1. Can one obtain a printout of the formulae that have been entered into the spreadsheet?
2. Can one put a column in VIEWSHEET into numerical order?
3. Will using disc facilities (User Guides, Section 12, page 134) allow one to make a bigger spreadsheet, or use more of a spreadsheet before running out of memory?

If you can assist, we would like to publish a reply, even if you communicate direct with Peter.

....

FOR SALE Wordwise Plus, ROM and Manuals $50-$100 (best offer gets it)
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4 New Street
NELSON.

....

GIVE AWAY VIEW Prom complete with User Guide
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Peter Till
Phone 83038 Hawera

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COMPETITION - GAME FOR TWO COMPUTERS

You may remember that a few months ago, Bruce (our previous Editor) proclaimed a competition where the object was to persuade two Acorn machines to talk to each other using the serial link (RS423, or RS232 on the Compact). Having done that, the two machines were to be used for a game.

We had hoped to be able to announce a winner this month, but we've had problems. Testing entries for this type of game has turned out to be twice as hard, and four times as time-consuming, as with normal games. We have had to find two machines (and their owners) that are free at the same time, and then try to carry out our testing. This is not as easy as we thought it would be. Thorough testing is essential; the winning game has to perform as the author says it should.

Fortunately, the instructions we have been given for starting up entries have been good - people must have been taking notice of Warren Willis's comments from the last competition (in case you don't remember, he was the judge).

So please bear with us, we hope we will be able to announce a WINNER in next month's *Beeblet*.

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BBC/ACORN COMPUTER USER GROUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The following are details of the Annual General Meeting of the BBC/Acorn User Group of New Zealand, INC:

LOCATION: Royal Society Building,
Turnbull Street
WELLINGTON.

AT: 7.45pm, Wednesday, 11 March 1987

All members and intending members are cordially invited to this meeting, particularly any from outside Wellington who can attend.

AGENDA:

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous AGM (published *Beeblet* April 1986)
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Correspondence
5. Matters arising from Correspondence
6. President's Report
7. Local Groups' Reports
8. Financial Report
9. Election of Officers
10. General Business

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PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

1986

After remaining static in the previous year, membership has declined a little to around 330. Nevertheless, the back page of *Beeblet* shows that meetings of local BBC User Groups are now known to be taking place in fifteen centres round the country - two more than last year. Not all these groups are directly linked to our National Group, but we have listed all we are aware of in the interests of keeping people informed.

In part, our decline in membership has been because the local meetings provide sufficient interest for people. It seems that the additional expense of joining the National Group, just to get *Beeblet*, is not considered worthwhile. This, and the implications for the future role and direction of the National Group have been the subject of ongoing discussion all year. There are no easy answers.

Beeblet continues to be the primary activity, and the primary expense, of the National Group. Yet again, we changed printing firms during the year to minimise costs. The editor for more than two years, Bruce Wills, finally burnt out. His shoes have been capably filled by an editorial committee headed by Graham Ellett. The gratitude of all members must go to Bruce, and to Graham and his helpers, for their herculean efforts, as well as to all the contributors throughout the country. Without contributions, we cannot have a magazine.

The trend of falling demand for bulk deals in large items continued, and with more realistic retail prices is now evident in consumables as well. It is likely that all bulk deals will be phased out. Our thanks to the Equipment Officer, Keith O'Callahan, for all the money he has saved us over the last couple of years.

The modem project was completed in 1986, with fifty being manufactured and sold to User Group members. While the National Group has not set up a bulletin board, the Auckland BBC/Acorn User Group is running one, and other groups have set them up in Wellington. The Waikato Acorn User Group has shown splendid initiative in organizing accounts on the Post Office STARNET electronic message service. This should be valuable for communications between the various groups around the country.

Our finances are looking good, thanks to cost-cutting, and the splendid work yet again by the Treasurer, Jean Heywood.

The accumulated surplus should enable us to set the subscription for 1987 at $20. Should this be ratified by the AGM, it is to be hoped that the low rate would encourage more people to join our national as well as their local User Group.

My thanks also to the Secretary, John Andrew, and the Membership Officer and vice-President Neville Hudson, and to the other committee members for their work through the year.

The contributions of those stepping down from the committee - Jean and Keith - will be sorely missed.

The User Group faces many challenges in the coming year. However, with continuing support from round the country, and adaptation to meet changing needs, I am confident of its future.

Neil Gordon

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TREASURER'S REPORT

The Income/Expenditure Accounts, and the Balance sheets are attached. During the year the part of the group handling the deals for members was established as a separate Equipment Division, in terms of our constitution, so its accounts are presented separately.

Contrary to expectations and in spite of slightly reduced membership, the ordinary workings of the Group showed an excess of income of over $2800. We produced only 10 magazines, and had a very good contract price for printing. Our administrative expenses were less (the treasurer paid all her own postage, for example) and we earned nearly $1000 in interest. In addition the accounts show a profit on our Modem Project of about $800, but some development costs of $500 were included in the general expenses for 1985. Our selling price of $220 thus gave us a profit of $6 per modem.

The Equipment Division did not make a large profit this year, in spite of a lot of hard work. The price of discs, one of our main items, has fallen significantly during the year, so our stocks have less value than we may have paid for them. Our policy is to price items, not to make a large profit but to provide a service to members.

Because we have a good surplus of Accumulated Funds, it would seem reasonable to budget for a loss on the 1987 operations, to give back to members some of the funds they have contributed. Based on 300 members (1986 had 330), and a subscription of $20, the budget would look like this:

	$	$	$
Subscriptions		6000	
Interest		800	
TOTAL			6800
MAGAZINE(10 Issues)			
Printer	4800		
Postage	800		
Stationery	300		
Editor	1000		
Total		6800	
Administration		1000	
Depreciation		500	
Miscellaneous		500	
TOTAL			8800
Loss for year			2000

BBC/ACORN COMPUTER USER GROUP NZ INC

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1986

INCOME

1985		$	$	$
12648	Subscription		9629	
135	Cards		66	
1022	Interest		984	
1183	Surplus on deals in supplies etc.			
------			-----	
14989				10679

EXPENDITURE

1985		$	$	$
	Magazine publishing & distribution			
7020	Printer	4553		
820	Postage	776		
379	Stationery	151		
1250	Editorial	1006		
828	Change in stocks	-168		
-----		-----		
10307		6318		
-----		-----		
-1194	Less sales,advertising	- 520		
9114			5798	
2575	General Administration		1362	
558	Modem development			
300	Depreciation		520	
469	Miscellaneous		136	
------			------	
13016				7817

1972	Surplus income over expenses			2862
	Modem sales	11040		
	Modem costs	10216		
	Modem profit			824

	Addition to Accumulated funds			3686
				=====

TURNOVER

Total Receipts	22239	
Total Payments	18065	
Non Cash Transactions	168	
	- 656	
Total addition to Accumulated Funds		3686

BBC/ACORN COMPUTER USER GROUP NZ INC.

BALANCE SHEET

AS At 31 DECEMBER 1986

31.12.85 $		$	$	31.12.86 $
	Members Funds			
4446	Accumulated funds as at 31.12.85			6418
1972	Surplus for year			2862
	Modem project profit			824
------				-------
6418	Accumulated Funds at 31.12.86			10104
				======
Represented by:				
	Current Assets			
3972	Cash at bank	- 96		
4000	Investment, at call	5000		
	Advance to Equipment Division	6154		
649	Debtors & Interest Due	335		
------		------		
8621	Cash Assets		11393	
2462	Stocks,Supplies		-	
514	Magazines		682	
-	Modems		220	
-----			------	
11597				12295
	Less Current Liabilities			
1398	Sundry Creditors		929	
3231	Subscriptions in Advance		2132	
1500	Modem deposits		-	

				3061

5468	Net Working Capital			9234
Fixed Assets				
950	Printer			650
	Modems			220
-----				-----
6418				10104
				=====

BBC/ACORN COMPUTER USER GROUP NZ INC

EQUIPMENT DIVISION

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 1986.

INCOME/EXPENDITURE

INCOME	Sales $	Stocks 31.12.86	Returns $
Supplies	5289	2019	7308
Equipment	9760	1288	11048
Sundry	7		7
Interest	90		90
	15146	3307	18453

EXPENDITURE	Stocks 1.1.86	Purchases $	Cost $
Supplies	2088	5451	7539
Equipment	374	10192	10566
Sundry		69	69
	2462	15712	18174
Profit(sales)			189
Surplus for the year			279

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31.12.86

Members Funds		
Funds at 1.1.86	Nil	
Surplus for year	279	
		279
Represented by:		
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	3183	
Stocks	3307	
		6490
Current Liabilities		
Initial Loan (BBC/Acorn Group)	4000	
Advance of stocks (" ")	2154	
Creditors	58	
		6211
Net Working Capital		279

POWER ACCOUNT ESTIMATOR

Peter Till, Hawera.

Listed below is a program developed to tell people where their Electricity is going. It may be of interest to members as it reveals the easiest areas to cut down on and their likely effects. It asks how many appliances you have of various sorts and uses data obtained from various surveys to multiply these up to weekly and monthly accounts. Egmont Board Tariffs are assumed; however the program is readily amended for other Tariffs.

Please note that the program as listed assumes that a printer is connected and switched on. If you don't have a printer, the insertion of REM immediately before the VDU2 commands (lines 200, 440, 630 and 680) will prevent the computer from seizing up. Some program alterations will be required if used for screen output only, but the full use of descriptive variable and procedure names make the program readily adaptable to meet your requirements.

```
 10 REM EST2
 20 REM A possible alternative program to EST for Kevins
    Consumer Information suite of programs
 30 REM Version 1 7/1/87, Peter Till, HAWERA
 40 PROCInitialise1
 50 PROCInitialise2
 60 FOR n=1 TO No_of_appliances%
 70 PROCask_questions
 80 NEXT
 90 PROCgive_totals
100 INPUT''"Do you wish to repeat the exercise: Y/N";ans$
110 IF LEFT$(ans$,1)="Y" OR LEFT$(ans$,1)="y" THEN GOTO 50
    ELSE END
120 DEFPROCInitialise1
130 @%=&20207:REM sets no of decimal places to 2 & field
    width to 7
140 Tariff_1=6.28
150 Tariff_2=7.30
160 Tariff_3=4.40
170 Tariff_4=3.90
180 Supply_charge=560
190 CLS
200 VDU2:REM Turns printer on
210 PRINT'''"This program will tell you where the money goes
    that you spend on domestic electricity."'"It is based on
    EEPB December 1986 tariffs (inc GST) ie"
220 PRINT"*************************************************"
230 PRINT"Tariff 1=";Tariff_1;"c (Obsolete one meter
    Tariff-house with controlled water heater)"
240 PRINT"Tariff 2=";Tariff_2;"c (24 Hr available supply)"
250 PRINT"Tariff 3=";Tariff_3;"c (Controlled supply at more
    attractive rate)"
```

```
260 PRINT"Tariff 4=";Tariff_4;"c (Controlled supply for
    space heating)"
270 PRINT"Supply charge=$";Supply_charge/100;" per month. To
    cover a portion of fixed costs."
280 PRINT"**************************************************"
290 VDU3
300 No_of_appliances%=36
310 DIM description$(No_of_appliances%)
320 DIM wattage(No_of_appliances%)
330 DIM hours_most_weeks(No_of_appliances%)
340 DIM Rate(No_of_appliances%)
350 FOR I%=1 TO No_of_appliances%
360 READ description$(I%),wattage(I%),
    hours_most_weeks(I%),Rate(I%)
370 NEXT
380 ENDPROC
390 DEFPROCInitialise2
400 Usage=0
410 n=0
420 Hours_per_week_total=0
430 Money_total=0
440 VDU2
450 INPUT'"Enter a description if you wish";'ans$
460 PRINT'"Item           No   Tariff Hrs/wk $/wk"'
470 VDU 3
480 ENDPROC
490 DEFPROCask_questions
500 PRINT'"How many ";description$(n);"s do you use in your
    house?."'"Enter a number from 0 to 30."
510 INPUTTAB(15);ans$
520 IF ASC(ans$)>58 THEN PRINT"Thats really no good":  GOTO
    500
530 IF VAL(ans$)<0 OR VAL(ans$)>30 THEN PRINT"Thats no
    good":GOTO 500
540 X=VAL(ans$)
550 IF X>0 THEN PROCupdate_totals:PROCgive_information
560 ENDPROC
570 DEFPROCupdate_totals
580 Usage=Usage+X*((wattage(n)/1000)*hours_most_weeks(n))
590 Hours_per_week_total=
    Hours_per_week_total+X*(hours_most_weeks(n))
600 Money_total=Money_total+
    X*((wattage(n)/1000)*Rate(n)*hours_most_weeks(n))
610 ENDPROC
620 DEFPROCgive_information
630 VDU 2
640 PRINTTAB(0)description$(n);TAB(15)ans$;TAB(20)Rate(n);
    TAB(27)X*hours_most_weeks(n);
    TAB(35)X*wattage(n)*Rate(n)*hours_most_weeks(n)/100000
650 VDU 3
660 ENDPROC
670 DEFPROCgive_totals
680 VDU 2
```

```
 690 PRINT''"Sum totals per week=";
     TAB(27)Hours_per_week_total;TAB(35)Money_total/100
 700 PRINT'"This gives you an idea of your weekly
     expenditure."
 710 PRINT'"The monthly usage would be   $";
     TAB(34)Money_total*4.3/100
 720 PRINT'"Add the supply charge........$";
     TAB(36)Supply_charge/100
 730 PRINT'"To give an idea of the total $";
     TAB(34)(Money_total*4.3+Supply_charge)/100
 740 PRINT'"Do you realise your appliances are working ";
     Hours_per_week_total;" Hours every week."''"Thats ";
     Hours_per_week_total/7;" hours every day!"'''''
 750 VDU 3
 760 ENDPROC
 820 DATA Freezer,250,48,Tariff_2
 830 DATA Fridge,300,37,Tariff_2
 840 DATA VTR,60,7*24,Tariff_2
 850 DATA Clock Radio,20,7*24,Tariff_2
 860 DATA Radio Gram,100,10,Tariff_2
 870 DATA Water cylinder,2500,40,Tariff_3
 875 DATA Towel Rail,90,7*24,Tariff_2
 880 DATA Fixed off peak heater,3000,30,Tariff_3
 890 DATA Fixed night rate heater,3000,30,Tariff_4
 900 DATA Portable heater,3000,30,Tariff_2
 910 DATA Range,8000,10,Tariff_2
 920 DATA Cooktop,8000,12,Tariff_2
 930 DATA Wall Oven,4000,5,Tariff_2
 935 DATA Microwave Oven,660,2,Tariff_2
 940 DATA Light,100,20,Tariff_2
 950 DATA Clothes drier,2300,4,Tariff_2
 960 DATA Dishwasher,2300,14,Tariff_2
 970 DATA Electric Jug,1500,4,Tariff_2
 980 DATA Colour TV,200,25,Tariff_2
 990 DATA Frypan,1200,3.5,Tariff_2
1000 DATA Iron,1000,2,Tariff_2
1010 DATA Coffee Perculator,600,2.3,Tariff_2
1020 DATA Vacuum Cleaner,600,3,Tariff_2
1030 DATA Washing Machine,500,3,Tariff_2
1040 DATA Toaster,600,2,Tariff_2
1050 DATA Electric Blanket(single),70,10,Tariff_2
1060 DATA Hair Drier,400,1,Tariff_2
1070 DATA Floor Polisher, 160,2,Tariff_2
1080 DATA Home Computer,100,15,Tariff_2
1090 DATA Clock,2,168,Tariff_2
1100 DATA Fan,50,4,Tariff_2
1110 DATA Waste Disposer,300,1,Tariff_2
1120 DATA Juice Extractor,300,1,Tariff_2
1130 DATA Food Mixer,125,2,Tariff_2
1140 DATA Sewing Machine,75,2,Tariff_2
1150 DATA Shaver,15,0.3,Tariff_2
```

SERVICE AGENTS AND DEALERS

The New Zealand network of service and dealers for the BBC is as follows:

AUCKLAND: Telephone

Sales and Service-
Barson Computers NZ Ltd,
1 Ngaire Avenue, 504-049
Auckland 3 504-631

John Gilbert Electronics
75 Parnell Rise,
Parnell. 390-839

Other Dealers-
Computer Terminal
Hinemoa St 419-053

Neil Gladden
Database Services
8 Kowhatu Rd

K' Road Computers (Computability)
Pitt St. 395-660

Whitcoulls Ltd
312 Broadway, Newmarket 543-129

BLENHEIM:

Whitcoulls Ltd
30 Market St Nth 88-039

CHRISTCHURCH:

Sales and Service-
Aftron Computers Ltd
161 Barbados St. 797-445

Dealers-
TVNZ Enterprises Shop,
P.O. Box 1945

Whitcoulls Ltd
111 Cashel St 794-580
Canterbury Centre, High St 50-159
201 Manchester St, 787-561

DUNEDIN:

Whitcoulls Ltd
143 George St. 774-120

GORE:

Lyndon McEntee,
Educomp, PO Box 255 7365

HAMILTON:

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175 Victoria St. 82-174

HASTINGS: Telephone

Whitcoulls Ltd
113 East Heretaunga St. 84-394

INVERCARGILL:

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26 Berwyn Ave. 298-7769

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TAURANGA:

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97 Grey St 87-738

TE PUKE:

May & Associates
PO Box 345. 83-257

TIMARU:

Whitcoulls Ltd
182 Stafford St. 88-185

WANGANUI:

Whitcoulls Ltd
148 Victoria Ave. 54-193

WELLINGTON:

Service-
APTEC
(Applied Engineering and Technology)
3 Halleys Lane 850-811
850-800

Dealers-
Whitcoulls Ltd
Lambton Quay 721-921

Micro Interface (NZ) Ltd
PO Box 14-441
Baycourt, Kilbirnie 873-451
882-444

10.12.86

STARNET

By John Andrew

Neil Orton of the Waikato Acorn User Group wrote a article published in last month's *Beeblet* titled 'Use of Modems' in which he discussed the STARNET facility that is available through the Post Office. The article included details of the charges for the service.

Basically all that is required to send written text between two computers is a jack-point telephone, a type approved modem, communications software (such as COMMSTAR) and a subscription to the STARNET facility. The 'local' service is Australasia based but access is available worldwide including to the Microlink facility (TELECOM GOLD) operating in the U.K.

Local directory groups can be set up achieving a higher degree of friendliness. Neil Orton has established one such group for BBC/ACORN users. The National group (BBC/ACORN COMPUTER USER GROUP NZ INC) is a member of that directory group under the USERID UGR008 (Neville Hudson). Others are invited to join by contacting Neil, c/o 1152 Victoria Street, Hamilton (UGR001). The charges for this arrangement are :-

Initial registration	$33	(NZPO)
Plus group administration	$10.	(WUG)

As a reminder,

The ongoing charges are	$2.20	per month (NZPO)
plus usage at	38.5	cents per minute of connect time (NZPO).

To establish a connection, the Wellington number dialled is 730-900 (for 300 Baud 8 bit, no parity). The computer answers with a squeal. Turning the modem on seals the connection.

The prompt from STARNET is PLEASE SIGN ON. At this stage enter ID <your userid> and a carriage return. The next prompt is for the password, which is initially allocated by the STARNET administrator (MIKE READ NZP007).

Entering the command MAIL allows access to the mail transfer system. Options for SEND, RECEIVE and SCAN (or quit!) follow. Communication to another user requires knowledge of his ID or, if within a common directory group such as UGR, his name (e.g. N.HUDSON).

At this stage, the TEXT prompt is an invitation to free type in your letter. Your typing is echoed back from the computer and some errors may occur, (apart from self-inflicted corruptions). These can be corrected by the delete key which back spaces.

> CAUTION: The computer can't handle more that 100 characters before you MUST enter a carriage return! When you have finished, send a carriage return, a .S and another carriage return. The computer should tell you the letter has been sent.

As your proficiency grows you can migrate to preparing the letters on a wordprocessor (remember the CARRIAGE RETURNS) ending with a .END on a new line at the end. The whole text can be sent in one lump by entering XMIT to STARNET and then OUTPUT your letter from the BBC (for those using COMMSTAR software).

The above refer to the transfer of TEXT files (ASCII). It is possible to transmit full 8 bit code data (BASIC programs other than *SPOOLed lists) by a file transfer facility FT. It is even possible to send TELEX messages by prior arrangement with the Post Office.

.END

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STARNET DIRECTORY

Space will be reserved periodically in *Beeblet* for a directory of User Group users accessible via STARNET should this be desired by the users concerned.

Possibly Neil Orton could coordinate an appropriate directory which will be published on receipt.

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PROGRAMMING AIDS (!)

Review of the HELP, TOOLKIT & SLEUTH ROMS

by Paul Hobbs.

The UK BBC user group BEEBUG has produced three ROMS to aid BASIC programmers. They are generally good value for money and superior to many competitors. All are available from BEEBUGSOFT, P.O.Box 109, High Wycombe, Bucks., ENGLAND.

HELP 8k EPROM 15 page manual price approx £25

This ROM provides a condensed user guide inside your machine! It is simple to use: *H (no full stop!) gives the main subject breakdown and *H <topic> gives detailed information, e.g. *H VDU gives a list of the VDU calls and parameters and *H PLOT gives syntax and useage for PLOT. The ROM may be searched for all occurences of a string by *H @ <string>. All information is displayed very quickly.

This ROM is great for beginners to programming and for the forgetful but for more advanced information the User Guides are still necessary. So if you think you know your stuff don't waste a valuable socket on this one!

TOOLKIT 8k EPROM 32 page manual price approx £27

This is primarily a BASIC program editing facility. All the commands are entered as star commands and fall into three groups. The first group simply extends some BASIC commands:

*CLEAR	as in CLEAR but includes A% to Z%
*NEW	as in NEW but may be a program statement.
*OLD	as in OLD but may be a program statement.
*REPORT	= 'REPORT:PRINT" at line ";ERL'
*RENUMBER	a powerful, selective RENUMBER command.

The next group includes:

*FREE	displays the values of PAGE, TOP, LOMEM, HIMEM,program length, next free location and free memory.
*MEMORY	displays the contents of memory in hex and ASCII.
*SCREEN	saves the screen memory to file.
*CHECK	verifies a file with memory.
*MOVE	relocates a BASIC program and resets PAGE to the new value.
*PACK	compacts a BASIC program by removing comments and spaces.
*RECOVER	attempts to reinstate a program after the 'Bad program' error.

I have found *FREE, *SCREEN and *RECOVER most useful, *PACK and *RECOVER have options which make them quite powerful. The Basic Extensions ROM has commands similar to *FREE, *MOVE, *PACK, *CHECK and Disc Doctor has better equivalents to *MEMORY, *MOVE and *CHECK.

The editing facilities of TOOLKIT are excellent and are entered via *EDIT. Once in the editor you may scroll through your program inserting, replacing, deleting at will without the tedium of rewriting complete lines all the time. Beware! always finish with <RETURN> before <ESCAPE> or the last line will not be altered. An irritation is that the screen only scrolls downward which is confusing - a Wordwise like approach would have been nicer. The *UTIL commands add to the editing functions:

*UTIL	enters the Utility menu
*UTIL1	is a string search
*UTIL2	is a string search and replace
*UTIL3	moves program lines
*UTIL4	lists procedures and functions
*UTIL5	lists values of A% to Z%
*UTIL6	lists values of other numeric variables
*UTIL7	lists values of string variables
*UTIL8	lists values of the current arrays
*UTIL9	selects the line range for *UTILs 1 & 2.

These commands work well but remember a program must be RUN and nothing else done if you want to se the values of variables. Equivalent but less powerful commands are found in the Basic Extensions ROM and TOOLKIT also has *RENUMBER (q.v.).

As in other ROMs the BASIC error handling is improved with the error pointed to, the message printed and the line displayed for editing. This facility is switched on by *ON and off by *OFF but in my machine this works a little erratically. Some commands (inevitably) clash with other ROMs but they may be prefaced by 'B' e.g.: *BRECOVER & *BEDIT.

In my opinion TOOLKIT is the best editing ROM on the market so far, but many of its functions are duplicated by other ROMs, especially by Disc Doctor and Basic Extensions.

SLEUTH   8k EPROM   23 page manual   price approx £29

If you fancy yourself as a BASIC programmer you will find that the errors that really cause you to tear your hair out are non-fatal or RUNtime ones (to use a compiler's term). The program just doesn't behave properly or hangs up without a message! Program editors like TOOLKIT are not much use here but SLEUTH is because it monitors the program while it's running. With SLEUTH you can step through the program keeping track of variables, procedures and the display and stop to modify values and correct error at any point. However it takes a bit of mastering.

SLEUTH is entered via *SLEUTH and all other instructions are entered via its control screen:

LO(ad),	
SA(ve),	
LI(st),	
RUN and	
GOTO	all do the obvious things.
P	sets PAGE to a new value
D	initialises a dual screen (SLEUTH and Program)
Q	quits to BASIC
B and BL	set breakpoints
A	sets the running speed of the program
VS	selects variables for monitoring
VU	allows variables to be reset to different values
T	toggles the Trace facility on/off
B	toggles breakpoints on/off
<TAB> and	
<SHIFT + TAB>	toggle the display between the control and program screens.
C	toggles the control screen between displaying breakpoints or variables
SI	single steps and M and MF multistep through the program
<SPACE>	commences execution
@	pauses
<CTRL>	speeds up execution

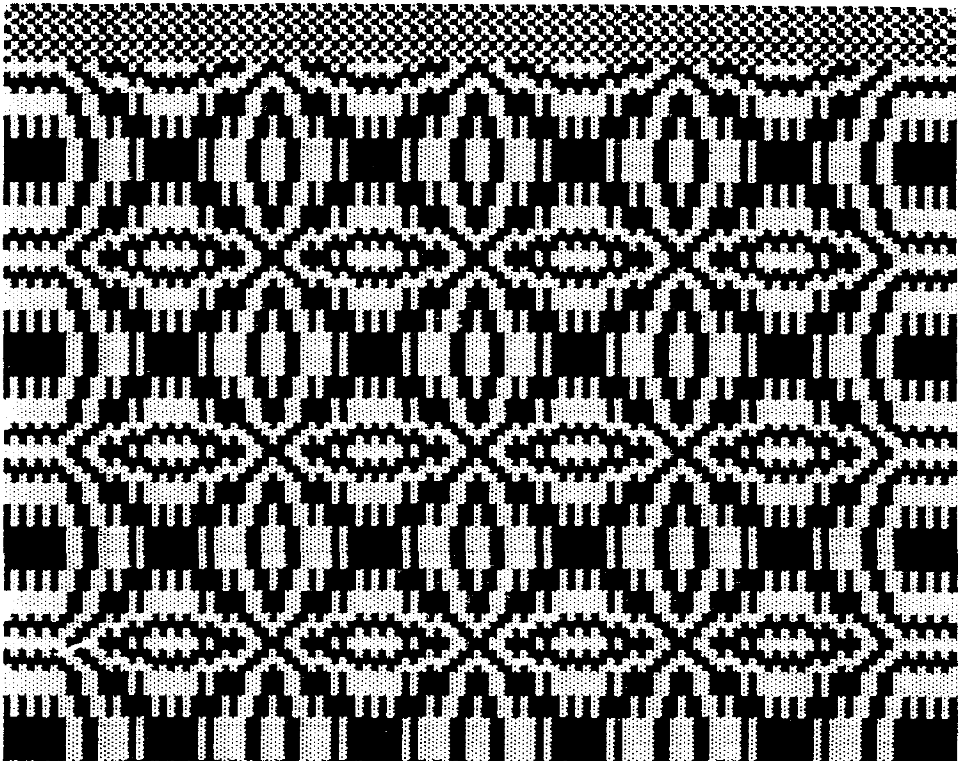
SLEUTH works well (if Basic Extensions is active it will foul it up) and is cleverly designed but I feel you would need to be doing a lot of programming to make this one worth it.

……

Next month Paul Hobbs will review the BASIC EXTENSIONS ROM.

STOP PRESS

Since there is a bit of space, lets have a look at the Honeysuckle pattern from the Weaving program - see page 10:



DISCOUNT STOCKS

Confidential to Members. February 1987

We are currently holding stocks as follows:-

Disks (box of 10)	3M DSDD 5.25"	$40.00 + $1.00 pp
Tapes(packet of 20)	Tracer C10	$25.00 + $2.00 pp
Tape(New Member)	EMI C30	$ 5.00
Beeblet Covers	Pre-V-Dex(2 Vols)	$ 4.50
Printer Ribbons	Logitec loops	$10.00

For Wellington members, these are available at both monthly meetings and workshops.

For other members, postage will be arranged on receipt of your cheque. Address requests to:

Discount Stocks
BBC/Acorn User Group of NZ, Inc
PO Box 9592
WELLINGTON

Address requests for the following to the 'Membership Officer':

Beeblet Vol 1	5,6,10,11	$ 0.50 each
Beeblet Vol 2	all except May	$ 1.00 each
Beeblet Vol 3	all	$ 1.50 each
Beeblet Copying 'out of stock' issues		$ 3.00 each

Beeblet Complete sets of Volumes One or Two:
Limited quantities at $15.00 per volume

* * *

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the User Group is on payment of an annual subscription from April to March. For the 1986/7 year it is: $30.00, plus $5.00 for Wellington members as a local branch levy, which entitles attendance at meetings as detailed on the back page and page 38. Joining or renewing members get all the back issues of the current year - those joining from 1 October may have half the annual subscription waived and only receive newsletters from 1 October.

* * *

USER GROUP MEETINGS

AUCKLAND: -2nd and 3rd Wednesday of each month at Social Club, Auckland Hospital, Grafton Road at 7.30pm. Contact John Buchanan (Secy), 13 Ohinau St, Remuera; David Wilkin (Pres), 29 Rose Camp Rd, Birkdale

North Shore: -last Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm, Salvation Army Hall, Glenfield Road, Glenfield ph Chris 419-0543 (wk)

CHRISTCHURCH: -fortnightly workshops, Monday 6.30pm at Hagley High School. ph. Michael 582-267.

DUNEDIN: -first Thursday of the month. Phone Martin McDowall 42-031

HAWKES BAY: -Alternative months Hastings and Napier. Contact Kendall: Napier 435-624, Major: Napier 447-729, Mitch: Hastings 85-395.

INVERCARGILL: -Phone Evan 330-444 Invercargill.

NELSON: -second Monday of the month, 7.30pm, Nelson Baptist Church, Bridge St. Contact Peter: Richmond 8975, Ken: Nelson 85-150, Richard: Richmond 8489.

PALMERSTON NORTH: -Phone Tom Skinner 83-009(wk)

ROTORUA: -Phone Ian 85-583 or Joan 81-536 (independent group)

TAUPO: -every second Wednesday, 7.00pm. Contact David 84-215 (h), 85-124 (wk).

TAURANGA: -every second Wednesday. ph. Chris & Jane 65-076.

TIMARU: -Phone Lloyd van der Krogt Timaru 61-412.

TOKOROA: -1st Friday of month, 7.30pm, Tokoroa High School. Contacts Don Fraser, 68-813 or Graeme Robertson, 65-346 Tokoroa.

WAIKATO: -first Monday of the month, 7.30pm, Waikato Tech Institute. Ph. Alison or John, Morrinsville 6695.

WELLINGTON: -second WEDNESDAY of the month, 7.30pm, Royal Society Lecture Theatre, Turnbull St, Thorndon.
-Workshops: fourth Wednesday of month, other details: ph. Don 848-235 or Mike 785-437.

OTHER CENTRES: -let us know and we will publish details here.

BEEBLET

CONTRIBUTIONS: -most welcome. Listings should be sent in on tape or disc. (Tape - 2 copies, one at 300 baud please). Please include written explanation of listing; text and graphics only material welcome too.

DEADLINES: -For a particular issue, the last day for material is the last day of the month prior to publication.

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MEMBERSHIP

For membership details, see page 35.

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